

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NORCROSS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EAST BEND SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 28, residents in Yadkin County gathered for the annual Small Town Christmas celebration at the East Bend fire station.

Although East Bend is a small community, its citizens know how to start the holiday season off right. The firefighters and Ladies Auxiliary group worked hard to get the station ready, and their efforts were appreciated by everyone who attended.

The evening began with a devotional and the lighting of the Christmas tree. While the chicken stew and pinto beans that followed were certainly delicious, the focus on faith was the real draw.

It is easy to get distracted during the days and weeks leading up to Christmas. So it was uplifting to see the community of East Bend once again take time to reflect on this season of grace and let the Lord's infinite joy fill their hearts.

It was a pleasure to be a part of their celebration, and I commend them for it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATE MCCARTHY

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday friends, family, and admirers of Kate McCarthy will gather in the shadow of Mount Hood that she loved. They will share stories of young Kate as a smart, free-spirited woman, educated at Portland's Reed College, working on Mount Hood's historic Timberline Lodge the day it opened in 1937 with President Roosevelt. Her family will regale with tales of challenges of managing four interesting children, shall we say.

The central narrative will be her knowledge, stewardship, and love of special places like the Columbia River Gorge, her advocacy and leadership for sound land use and above all, Mount Hood.

She challenged me to focus on the entire responsibility for protecting that mountain, leading not just to 120,000 acres of wilderness, but enacting a comprehensive vision for its protection.

She was a passionate, committed visionary whose influence will be felt and seen for generations.

DON'T FUND UNESCO BECAUSE IT HAS RECOGNIZED A NON-EXISTENT PALESTINIAN STATE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Secretary Kerry has been pressuring the Israeli Government to relent in its opposition to U.S. funding for UNESCO.

It is a shame Secretary Kerry isn't using the full weight of his office to hold Abu Mazen and the corrupt Palestinian Authority accountable for their incitement to violence and their continued efforts to de-legitimize and isolate the Jewish state at the U.N. while pursuing unilateral state recognition.

But, with all due respect to the Israeli Government's newfound position, which undoubtedly was achieved under duress, this is a matter of U.S. law and Congress' clear desire to force fundamental reforms at the broken U.N. system.

Our laws are clear. No taxpayer dollars can be used to fund any agency at the U.N. that admits a nonexistent state of Palestine. UNESCO did, so, therefore, no U.S. dollars.

I urge Congress not to relent, but to stand with me and defend our jurisdiction and continue to uphold both the letter and the spirit of the law.

TERRORIST GUN LOOPHOLE

(Mr. NORCROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, these are very anxious times here in America with good reason. We have an urgent national security issue at hand that allows somebody who is on the terrorist watch list to legally purchase a firearm.

How can somebody who pledges allegiance to ISIS be allowed to purchase a gun here in America?

We would never give a set of keys to somebody who was drunk to get behind the wheel. How is it that we allow someone a license to go and purchase a firearm?

We allow them to go and purchase a firearm in this country who are on the terrorist watch list. Would the same fight be taking place if they wanted to get onto an airliner, saying: Hey, let's let he or she on. They are on the terrorist watch list. I want them to fly with me.

That is the insanity we are dealing with. Over the course of the next few weeks, we have the ability to make a commonsense, simple approach to reducing the chance of terrorism here in America; that is, to keep those who are on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm.

Let's come together, bipartisan, and pass this approach.

PRESIDENT OBAMA BROKE THE LAW WITH THE BERGDAHL DEAL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in May 2014, the President shocked the world by announcing that he had negotiated with terrorists to secure the disgraced Sergeant Bergdahl's release from the Taliban.

Yesterday the House Armed Services Committee, led by Chairman MAC THORBERRY, issued an in-depth report dealing with the President's secret negotiations. The report verified that the transfer violated several laws.

The American public was misled about the efforts to arrange the terrorists' pardon before it took place. Senior officials within the Department of Defense that were best equipped to evaluate the national security risk with this specific transfer were excluded from the process.

The President failed to take significant precautions to eliminate the risks posed by the Taliban Five, putting all American families as targets of more murderous attacks.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

We should all appreciate the six American heroes from the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, who were killed in action while searching for Bergdahl to leave no one behind.